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Agenda item 85

Sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd and 62nd plenary meetings, on 15 September and 30 November 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled:

> "Sustainable development:
>
> "(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
>
> "(b) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
>
> "(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;
>
> "(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;
>
> "(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
>
> "(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;
>
> "(g) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;
>
> "(h) Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

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2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 14th to 18th and 39th meetings, on 18, 19, 20 and 27 October and on 14 December 2004. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.14-18 and 39). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 8th meetings, on 4, 5, 6 and 12 October (see A/C.2/59/SR.2-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be provided in the addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
(f)	6
(g)	7
(h)	8

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 85
Sustainable development

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its eighth special session[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/59/81-E/2004/63)

Report of the Secretary-General on establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/59/262)

Letter dated 22 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the ministerial declaration adopted by the Member States of the Group of 77 and China (A/59/115)

Letter dated 15 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/59/158)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources (A/59/167)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/59/25).

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/59/220)

(b) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (A/59/173)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/59/228)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

( )

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting reports on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions (A/59/197)

(g) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

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(h) Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas

No advance documentation was submitted under sub-items (g) and (h).

4. At the 14th meeting, on 18 October, introductory statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-items (a) and (b)), the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (under sub-item (c)), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (under sub-item (d)), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (under sub-item (e)), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (under sub-item (f)) and the Assistant Secretary-General for Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (under sub-item (g)) (see A/C.2/59/SR.14).

5. At the same meeting, pursuant to section C, paragraph 3 (d), of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, the Committee held a dialogue with the officials listed above during which comments were made and questions were posed by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Croatia, Iran (Islamic

Republic of Iran), Nigeria, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (see A/C.2/59/SR.14).

6. Also at the same meeting, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States made a statement (see A/C.2/59/SR.14).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.16 and A/C.2/59/L.62

7. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its eighth special session" (A/C.2/59/L.16), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003,

"*Taking into account* Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Reaffirming* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition,

"*Recalling* the need to enhance the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning support for capacity-building in developing countries,

"*Conscious* of the need to ensure that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields remain important components of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Noting* the ongoing work of the high-level open-ended intergovernmental working group to prepare an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 57/251 and 58/209, by which Member States were encouraged to submit their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme before the sixtieth session of the General Assembly,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session and the decisions contained therein;

"2. *Calls upon* developed countries to positively and meaningfully engage in the negotiations of the intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building, with a view to adopting, at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in February 2005, an action-oriented plan with a specific timetable and sufficient resources for its implementation, and requests the relevant United Nations programmes and the Global Environment Facility to cooperate positively in its implementation;

"3. *Notes* the differences in the views expressed so far on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and encourages Member States that have not yet done so, the Governing Council and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to submit their comments, in a timely manner, on the issue, in order to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly during the sixty-first session;

"4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to contribute, within its mandate and as a member of the inter-agency task force, to the preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which is to be held in Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005;

"5. *Takes note* of the decision of the Governing Council to consider the issue of the location of the secretariat of the Environment Management Group at its twenty-third session in February 2005;

"6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Governing Council to discuss at its twenty-third session the issues related to domestic, industrial and hazardous waste management, in particular regarding capacity-building and technology transfer and to consider innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources to support the efforts of developing countries in this area;

"7. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to consider increased financial allocations to the Environment Programme from the United Nations regular budget;

"8. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge its mandate effectively;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Environment Programme and the other United Nations organizations and bodies in Nairobi."

8. At the 39th meeting, on 14 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session" (A/C.2/59/L.62), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.16.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.62, as orally corrected (see para. 11).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.62, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003,

Taking into account Agenda 21[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition,

Recalling also the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on the full implementation of the outcomes of the decision on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session,

Reiterating the need to ensure that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in environment-related fields, remain important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and noting in this regard the ongoing work of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group to prepare an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building,

Recalling its resolutions 57/251 and 58/209, by which Member States, the Governing Council and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system were encouraged to submit their comments, in a timely manner, on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, in order to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration before its sixtieth session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session and the decisions contained therein;[3]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/59/25).

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolutions 57/251 and 58/209;[4]

3. *Notes* that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its eighth special session, discussed all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance, as contained in decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council,[5] and notes their continued discussion scheduled by the Governing Council for its twenty-third session;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to further contribute to sustainable development programmes, the implementation of Agenda 21[1] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[2] at all levels and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

5. *Calls upon* all countries to further engage in the negotiations for an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building with a view to its adoption at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in February 2005;

6. *Notes* the differences in the views expressed so far on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and also notes the upcoming consideration of the question of universal membership by the Council/Forum at its twenty-third session; encourages Member States, the Governing Council and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to submit their comments to the Secretariat on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, as their contribution to the report of the Secretary-General; and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report incorporating those views to the Assembly for consideration at its sixty-first session;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and in this respect welcomes the continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Development Group;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to contribute, within its mandate and as a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force, to the preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005;[6]

9. *Notes* the decision of the Governing Council to discuss at its twenty-third session issues related to domestic, industrial and hazardous waste management, in particular regarding capacity-building and technology support, and, in that context, to consider innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources from all appropriate

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[4] A/59/262.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/57/25), annex I.

[6] See resolution 57/262.

sources to support the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in this area;

10. *Also notes* the decision of the Governing Council to review at its twenty-third session the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation on the strengthening of the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme;

11. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

12. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the provisions of section III.B. of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council on strengthening the role and financial situation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the significant broadening of the donor base and increasing total contributions to the Environment Fund, and, in this regard, notes that the Governing Council will review the implementation of those provisions at its twenty-third session;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Environment Programme and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi.